

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
16 March 2010
English
Original: French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**2010 regular session**

26 May-4 June 2010

**Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted
by non-governmental organizations in consultative status
with the Economic and Social Council through the
Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31**

Note by the Secretary-General**Contents**

	<i>Page</i>
1. Association santé et environnement	2
2. Coordination SUD	4
3. Emmaus International Association	7
4. Fondation Maman Henriette Conte	9
5. International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations	11
6. Reporters Without Borders International	13



1. Association santé et environnement

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The Association santé et environnement focuses its activities on the close and interactive linkages between the state of the environment and human health. It seeks to offer all citizens a forum for information, dialogue, education and training. Its goals are to:

- Study and identify environmental factors that influence health.
- Raise awareness of the importance of these factors.
- Prevent these factors.
- Establish relations with nongovernmental organizations at the national and international level.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

- Participation in inter-sessional meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development at the ministerial level.
- Participation in the second meeting of the preparatory committee for the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, 17 to 25 February 2005 in Geneva.
- Participation in the World Summit on the Information Society, from 16 to 18 November 2005, in Tunis.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization participated in the following activities, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and national authorities:

- (a) implementation of the national health and environment plan;
- (b) preparation of a study on adapting the health sector to climate change, under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development;
- (c) "national hygiene days" dealing with health and the environment, organized by the Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization, in November 2007.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to more than 30 events and publications addressing the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goals 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The organization participated in the following events:

- (a) Meeting on the prevention of tobacco-related illnesses, under the aegis of the Ministry of Public Health, February 2008.
- (b) National meeting on protecting health from the negative effects of climate change, organized on the occasion of the World Health Day by the Directorate of Hygiene and Environmental Protection of the Ministry of Public Health, in April 2008, in Tunis.
- (c) Climate change and health, April 2008.
- (d) Nutrition and child health, April 2008.
- (e) Seminar on the World Bank strategy on climate change and development, organized in collaboration with the German Technical Cooperation Organization (GTZ) in May 2008, in Tunis.
- (f) National seminar on waste management, organized in June 2008, in Tunis.
- (g) City and health, June 2008.
- (h) National conference on noise pollution in Tunisia, situation and outlook, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in June 2008, in Tunis.
- (i) Meeting on therapeutic protocols, organized by the General Directorate of Health in July 2008 at the Ministry of Public Health.
- (j) Ageing, health and society, February 2007, Tunis.
- (k) Domestic pollution and health, April 2007, Tunis; Seminar on NGO participation in eliminating stocks of obsolete pesticides, May 2007, Tunis.
- (l) Noise pollution, June 2007.
- (m) Tobacco, drugs and health, October 2007.
- (n) Fourth National Congress on Occupational Health, on the role of occupational health in support of sustainable development and public health, organized by the Tunisian Society for Occupational Health in October 2007, in Tunis.
- (o) Meeting to organize a national seminar on associations working in the field of health, organized in October 2007 at the Ministry of Public Health.
- (p) National seminar of scientific organizations, hosted by the Ministry of Scientific Research, Technology and Skills Development in April 2006, in Tunis.

- (q) Workshop to evaluate the costs of environmental degradation, organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development in April 2006, in Tunis.
- (r) Sexuality and environment, April 2006, Tunis.
- (s) Emerging illnesses and the environment, February 2006, Tunis.
- (t) Workshop on the national environment report, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in June 2006, in Tunis.
- (u) Workshop on Tunisia's vulnerability to climate change, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the German GTZ in July 2006, in Tunis.
- (v) Meeting on the use of pesticides and their health risks, December 2006, Tunis.
- (w) Third international conference on environmental upgrading of businesses, in particular water and energy utilities, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in December 2006, in Tunis.
- (x) Plastics, health and environment, May 2005, Tunis.
- (y) Mental health and the environment, April 2005, Tunis.
- (z) Body, health and environment, December 2005, Tunis.

The organization contributed to the following publications:

2008: publications dealing with climate change and health; nutrition and child health; city and health

2006. Publications dealing with body, health and environment; emerging diseases and environment; ageing, health and society; domestic pollution and health; noise pollution.

2005. Publications dealing with plastics, health and environment; mental health and environment.

2. Coordination SUD

General, 2005

I. Introduction

Coordination SUD (*Solidarité Urgence Développement*) is the national coordinating body for French NGOs working for international solidarity. Founded in 1994, it today embraces six NGO associations (*Comité de liaison des ONG de volontariat – CLONG-Volontariat*; *Comité pour les relations nationales et internationales des associations de jeunesse et d'éducation populaire (CNAJEP)*; *Coordination d'Agen*; *Centre de recherche et d'information pour le développement (CRID)*; *Forum des organisations de solidarité internationale issues des migrations (FORIM)*; *Groupe Initiatives*) and more than 130 individual NGOs engaged in humanitarian work, development assistance, environmental protection, the defence

of human rights for disadvantaged groups, as well as educational activities and lobbying.

Coordination SUD has a dual mission: it supports professionalism among French NGOs and represents their positions before public and private institutions in France, in Europe and around the world. It offers monitoring services, information dissemination, advice and training. It manages a joint fund for cofinancing external expertise in various aspects of organizational and institutional performance for NGOs. It also hosts thematic working commissions composed of its members to consider the major issues in international solidarity.

Coordination SUD is a member of French and European umbrella organizations: The *Conférence permanente des coordinations associatives*, the *Fonds pour la promotion des études préalables, des études transversales et des évaluations* and the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development

Coordination SUD invited representatives of 82 national NGO platforms to participate in follow-up to the programme of the French Presidency of the European Union, by creating an International Forum of National NGO Platforms. This movement seeks to reinforce cooperation and solidarity among national NGO platforms on five continents, at the regional, interregional and international levels, through capacity building and advocacy efforts. Coordination SUD is serving as secretariat of the International Forum of National NGO Platforms for a transitional phase of two years.

Coordination SUD is an association under law 1901, and it is financed by membership fees and by public and private grants.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

2005

- Summit of heads of state and government to review the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in September 2005, at UN headquarters in New York; participation at NGO meetings on the occasion of the Summit on the contribution of developed countries to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- Meetings organized between Coordination SUD and several United Nations bodies: Civil Society Organizations Division of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York; Millennium Development Goals Campaign; UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva.

2006

- Participation in NGO meetings on the contribution of developed countries to achieving the MDG, on the occasion of the 61st session of the General Assembly, September 2006, New York

2007

- Participation in NGO meetings on the impact of climate change on developing countries, on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, December 2007, Bali, Indonesia

2008

- Follow-Up Conference on Financing for Development, 29 November-2 December, Doha: participation in the official French delegation to the conference
- Participation in NGO meetings on the impact of climate change on developing countries, on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, December 2008, Poznan, Poland.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- Creation and development of the International Resource Centre (www.ong-ngo.org), in collaboration with UNDP, the Brazilian Association of NGOs, the Chilean Association of NGOs, the Council of NGOs for Development Support, and Voluntary Action Network India
- Coordination SUD runs the website of the International Forum of National NGO Platforms, reproduces and publishes information transmitted by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service to inform national NGO platforms, regional coalitions and their members on international consultations and events planned by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

- As a member of World Action against Poverty-France (AMCP-France), Coordination SUD has spearheaded a campaign to lobby government authorities on the MDG. As facilitator of the AMCP-France advocacy group, Coordination SUD facilitated adoption of a common position for French civil society organizations on the MDG, and organized meetings with the French authorities on this question.
- Coordination SUD follows French budget debates closely at the governmental and parliamentary level. French NGOs are demanding, in this context, that France contribute its fair share to achieving the MDG in developing countries. Every year, the working commissions of Coordination SUD prepare position papers, organize meetings with the ministries concerned and with parliamentarians, and issue press releases.
- As a member of the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development, coordination SUD contributes annually to the AidWatch process for monitoring European official development assistance. This initiative is intended to ensure that aid programmes of the 27 member countries of the European Union and the European Commission are contributing to combating poverty and achieving the MDG.

3. Emmaus International Association

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The objectives and the *raison d'être* of the Emmaus International Association, as well as its principal activities, are the following:

(a) to allow persons who are excluded or marginalized to take back control of their economic, cultural and social destiny, usually on a community basis;

(b) to work to establish international relations, particularly North-South relations, that are more equitable and respectful of the fundamental needs of human beings and their right to development;

(c) to combat the waste of human and natural resources by encouraging recycling of products discarded by people in wealthy countries, through the medium of persons excluded from the economic and social mainstream.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, nor in the big conferences or other meetings of the United Nations during the period 2005-2008, but it supported the creation and networking of new local associations; it focused its activities on development and the implementation of programmes in the field to facilitate access to drinking water, access to microcredit, the rights of migrants, and the exchange of experience among its members in these fields in Africa, in the Americas and in Asia. The organization has no permanent delegation in New York that would allow it to participate at a reasonable cost in the many meetings of UN bodies, including the Economic and Social Council.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

A delegate from Emmaus International Association participated as an observer in a working group to consider migration issues in April 2006 in Geneva.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The General Assembly of 2007 renewed for the period 2008-2011 three collective actions of priority to the organization and its members, based on human rights: access to drinking water, ethical finance and access to microcredit, the rights of migrants; it added to these access to education and health. The organization has

contributed to achieving the MDC in the following geographic areas: South America, sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia. Important actions have been undertaken in the following sectors:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

- A great many members of the organization are working in Africa, in South America and in Asia to empower women, particularly through economic and microcredit activities.

Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

- In response to the food crisis in 2008, Emmaus International Association organized the distribution of 97 tons of foodstuffs to 7,000 families in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and seven countries of sub-Saharan Africa.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- 800 children are registered in centres run by members of the association in Argentina and in Bangladesh.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Most members of the association in Africa, and South America and in Asia are working for the empowerment of women, primarily through non-formal education. The most important campaign is benefiting 10,000 women in Burkina Faso.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 6: reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality rate, between 1990 and 2015:

- A health care cooperative has been instituted in Benin and Burkina Faso to provide access to care: there were 387 members at the beginning of 2005, and 769 at the end of 2008.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

- Education and prevention work in Burkina Faso in 2005-2008: 8,220 participants in discussion groups, conferences and video showings; screening for 6,600 persons; 2,500 consultations with physicians or nurses; 2,000 home or hospital visits.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

- Drinking water and sanitation system for 70,000 people in the lake district of Benin.
- October 2008: international training session on sustainable development, in partnership with the University of Lisbon: 42 participants including five from African countries (South Africa, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire), five from the Americas (Canada, Chile and Uruguay), four from the Middle East and Asia (India and Lebanon); distribution of papers via CD-ROM in three languages (French, English, Spanish) to members of the association in 36 countries.

Target 11: By 2015, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

- Day-to-day work of association members in big cities such as New Delhi, Buenos Aires, Recife, São Paulo and Lima.

Goal 8: Establish a global partnership for development

Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

- Financing of computers, Internet access and training for 15 members of the association in Africa, in 2007
- Cybercafe for the most disadvantaged groups in Burkina Faso: 13 computers and 45,000 visitors a year on average over the period 2005-2008.

4. Fondation Maman Henriette Conte

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

The Fondation Mama Henriette Conte is a national organization founded in the Republic of Guinea in March 1994, the purpose of which is to make an effective and lasting contribution to improving the social, economic and cultural well-being of the population in general, and of women and children in particular.

In collaboration with its national and international partners, the Fondation has the following objectives:

- To organize advocacy efforts at the national, regional and international levels for a better understanding of children's and women's needs.
- To encourage private and community initiatives to help children, particularly disadvantaged children, to grow and flourish.
- To improve living conditions for families.
- To help control the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

- To bring comfort and relief to persons living with HIV and reduce the consequences of AIDS on families and orphans.

During the period under consideration, the foundation continued to initiate new activities in Guinea in the social, economic, humanitarian and cultural fields.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities and/or conferences and other meetings of the United Nations

In collaboration with the government, United Nations agencies represented in Guinea (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Food Programme, the Joint United Nations Fund on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Population Fund) and other sectors including NGOs and civil society representatives, the Foundation has been heavily involved in implementing the recommendations of international forums, particularly those formulated by United Nations agencies in the social, economic and cultural fields.

In the context of combating HIV/AIDS, the Foundation, in collaboration with the National Committee against AIDS, organized a series of awareness campaigns about STD/HIV/AIDS in May 2005 in military and paramilitary garrisons and the country's industrial zones.

These events also involved the local government authorities, NGO members and civil society.

The campaigns conducted at the prefecture level attracted active participation by administrative authorities, local elected officials, religious chiefs and the general public.

On each occasion, the emphasis was on prevention, treatment and support for HIV/AIDS victims. A great many measures for combating the socioeconomic consequences of the disease have been adopted, as well as provisions at the world, regional, subregional and national level. Condoms, posters, T-shirts, caps and nurses' smocks were also distributed.

This campaign offered people a chance to openly disclose their seropositivity by counselling other participants, particularly agents, on the screening and recognition of serological status in order to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was given on voluntary screening, the various ways by which the disease is transmitted, stigmatization, discrimination, use of condoms, and care for affected persons.

The foundation has also:

- Organized or chaired artistic, cultural and sports programmes.
- Distributed 1,350 tricycles to disabled persons, as part of a programme to supply 5,400 tricycles.

- Provided individual assistance in certain social cases, such as multiple births to poor families (twins, triplets, quadruplets, quintuplets), victims of natural and other disasters (fires, floods, etc.) and underprivileged children with serious illnesses.
- Gifts to children to mark national and religious holidays.
- Gifts to newborn babies and their mothers in maternity wards.
- Provision of equipment to health centres on Kassa Island.

The foundation participated in the following events:

- In September 2005, a member of the Foundation took part in the 58th session of the Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information and Non-Governmental Organizations, held in New York.
- In September 2006, a representative of the organization met with the Assistant Secretary General and Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, and the Director of UNAIDS.
- In September 2008, a member of the Foundation participated in Paris in the 61st session of the Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information and Non-Governmental Organizations, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- In 2008, the president of the organization participated in the Conference of First Ladies on African synergies for combating AIDS.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Foundation intends to expand its efforts on behalf of the most vulnerable population groups in Guinea, by seeking the means to give hope to impoverished women, underprivileged children, victims of the pandemic of the century and their families, etc.

To this end, it will work primarily on follow-up to actions already undertaken and to reinforce its relations with all its partners, particularly the United Nations agencies, in order better to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

5. International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations

Special, 1985

I. Introduction

The International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations, created in 1951, is one of two nongovernmental organizations representing the international engineering and technology community. The other organization is the World Federation of Engineers' Organizations, created in 1968. In 1995 the International Council for Engineering and Technology (ICET) was created to coordinate the

activities of the other two organizations. As a result, the Council has the status of an umbrella NGO and, as such, enjoys formal relations at the highest level, established in 1999, with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). That relationship allowed the Council to sign a framework agreement for a period of six years (to be evaluated every two years).

Discussions with UNESCO for renewing the umbrella NGO status of the Council and for signature of a new agreement covering 2008-2013 are underway. The overall arrangement thus includes three NGOs federating international and national associations under the auspices of UNESCO, and domiciled at the same address at the headquarters of the organization. Within the International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations, the international union of French-speaking engineers and scientists (*Union internationale des ingénieurs et scientifiques utilisant la langue française*) has a special position, for it is both an offshoot and an active member, and it serves as a link between the French-speaking members or other Francophone sections of international members of the International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization did not take part in activities of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization participated in the following activities in collaboration with UN entities:

- (a) Seminar on access to energy for all, UNESCO, October 2006.
- (b) Workshop on water, health and the environment, held at UNESCO in partnership with the International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations, the Union internationale des ingénieurs et scientifiques utilisant la langue française, and the Académie de l'eau, in November 2007.
- (c) Report written in collaboration with UNESCO on the future climate of the Mediterranean (trends, consequences, countermeasures), in December 2007.
- (d) Seminar on the production of natural resources and energy in the Russian Federation and the possibilities of cooperation with Europe, under the auspices of UNESCO, November 2008.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to more than 30 events and publications relating to the following goals:

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

In 2006, the World Academy of Biomedical Sciences and Technologies focused its activities on economic life and sustainable technologies, biotechnology and remote controls, and a contribution to the work on climate trends in the Mediterranean. The first national meeting of authors of books about environmental risks and sustainable development took place in June 2006 at Marseille to mark the 15th anniversary of the Institut de prévention et de gestion des risques urbains. In 2007, the International Union of Technical Associations and Organizations created a working group on geotechnical education and took part in the organization of the International Geotechnical Congress held at Yaoundé in November 2007.

Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

In 2007, the organization created a working group on African roads and also took part in the World Road Congress in Paris in September 2007.

In 2008, the organization participated in and organized the following events:

- (a) International conference on engineering sciences and development of the Maghreb (conservation of existing buildings), Tunis, March 2008;
- (b) meeting on restoring urban heritage for the development and modernization of historic cities of the Mediterranean, Arles, September 2008;
- (c) second colloquium on science, technology and development in Africa, organized in cooperation with the École polytechnique de Thiès and the Ministry of Infrastructure, Dakar, June 2008;
- (d) colloquium on science, technology and development in the Maghreb, organized in collaboration with the Hassania School of Public Works and the Public Research and Testing Laboratory, Casablanca, November 2008.

6. Reporters Without Borders international

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

Founded in 1985, Reporters Without Borders International works on a day-to-day basis for freedom of the press. To this end the organization: (a) defends journalists and media assistants imprisoned or persecuted for doing their job and exposes the mistreatment and torture of them in many countries; (b) fights against censorship and laws that undermine press freedom; (c) gives financial aid each year

to 100 or so journalists or media outlets in difficulty as well to the families of imprisoned journalists; (d) works to improve the safety of journalists, especially those reporting in war zones.

Before taking action, Reporters Without Borders researchers compile reports of press freedom violations. After checking the information, the researchers and the organisations' correspondents send protest letters to the authorities to put pressure on governments which do not respect the right to inform and to be informed, and send releases to the media to drum up support for the journalists under attack.

In certain cases, a Reporters Without Borders fact-finding mission will be sent to investigate on the spot the working conditions of journalists, as well as cases of imprisoned or murdered journalists, and also to meet with the authorities in the country concerned. Publicity campaigns conducted with the help of public relations firms aim to inform people and try to give countries which do not respect this basic right a bad name in the eyes of international institutions, the media and governments that have ties with them.

Reporters Without Borders is funded by the sale of its albums of photographs as well as calendars, by auctions, donations, member dues, public grants and partnerships with private firms.

Reporters Without Borders is present in all five continents through its national branches, its offices in New York, Tokyo and Washington, and its network of more than 120 correspondents. The organisation also works closely with local and regional press freedom groups that are members of the Reporters Without Borders Network, as in Afghanistan, Belarus, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Tunisia.

In 2005, the organization won the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

Events to highlight the issue of press freedom:

- The Round-up of press freedom in the world, January;
- Online Free Expression Day, 12 March;
- World Press Freedom Day, 3 May;
- Worldwide Press Freedom Index;
- Jailed Journalists Support Day.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Reporters Without Borders has not participated in the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or those of its subsidiary entities, for the organization's mandate is not directly linked to the missions of ECOSOC or those entities. On the other hand, during the period 2005-2008, Reporters Without Borders

contributed to the work of other UN bodies, such as the Human Rights Council and the Security Council.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

1. Support for the work of the Human Rights Commission and Council

The participation of Reporters Without Borders in the Human Rights Commission (until 2006) and Council has involved oral and written statements as well as attendance at sessions, meetings with special rapporteurs, in particular the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and with delegations, officials of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other nongovernmental organizations with which Reporters Without Borders cooperates. The organization also maintains contact with the United Nations Office in Geneva, specifically with the Information Service and other services responsible for legal questions and liaison with NGOs and with accredited journalists. Lastly, in its fact-finding missions Reporters Without Borders has worked with United Nations peacekeeping missions, for example in the Democratic Republic of Congo in December 2008.

The organization has taken the following actions in connection with UN activities in the human rights field:

(a) on the occasion of the 61st session of the Human Rights Commission, in April 2005, Reporters Without Borders organized a special meeting in Geneva to launch an appeal for the release of two hostages in Iraq: the journalist Florence Aubenas, and her guide and interpreter Hussein Hanoun Al-Saadi, abducted in January 2005;

(b) during the fourth session of the Human Rights Council, held from 12 to 30 March 2007, Reporters Without Borders presented a written report on the safety of journalists and decriminalization of the offence of defamation.

2. Contribution to the universal periodic reviews of the Human Rights Council

The Universal Periodic Review mechanism was created at the same time as the new Human Rights Council, in 2006. It involves an assessment of the observance of human rights in each UN member state, and covers 49 countries per year. Three documents are drafted in preparation for this review: a report on the human rights situation in a given country, a report by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and another report from the High Commissioner summarizing the positions of nongovernmental organizations. Reporters Without Borders has contributed to this last document, writing a report on every country that the organization considers of priority in its struggle for press freedom. During the first three sessions, held in April, May and December 2008, Reporters Without Borders submitted contributions for 18 countries, such as Tunisia, Indonesia, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Turkmenistan and Israel, and these were summarized and added to the contributions from other NGOs in the High Commissioner's report. The contributions of Reporters Without Borders deal with the status of freedom of the press in the country under review, focusing essentially on the organization's concerns with respect to journalists who have been threatened, attacked, jailed or murdered, the review of legislation

concerning the press, or the status of online freedom of expression. Reporters Without Borders will continue its contributions to the Universal Periodic Review in coming years.

3. Participation in adoption of a resolution by the Security Council

During the period 2005-2008, the work of Reporters Without frontiers was illustrated during the unanimous adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1738 (2006), on 23 December 2006. This resolution was submitted to the Council by France and Greece, following an initiative taken by Reporters Without Borders, which prepared the initial draft on the protection of journalists operating in war zones and submitted it to the French authorities. Resolution 1738 (2006) calls upon all parties to a conflict to respect their obligations to protect journalists, to prevent acts of violence against them, and to punish violations of these rules. The resolution recalls that journalists, like other civilians, are protected by international humanitarian law.

C. Cooperation with specialized agencies

1. Participation in the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Following the Security Council's adoption of Resolution 1738 (2006), Reporters Without Borders proposed that UNESCO should adopt a similar text in the form of a declaration. Thus, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day in May 2007, media professionals adopted the Medellin Declaration on securing the safety of journalists and combating impunity. The declaration reiterates the main themes addressed by Resolution 1738 (2006), i.e. the protection of journalists during armed conflicts and the prosecution and punishment of persons violating that rule.

2. Activities in support of general principles

World Press Freedom Day was established pursuant to General Assembly Decision 48/432 of 20 December 1993, following the Windhoek Declaration in which UNESCO had taken up the initiative of Reporters Without Borders. Since that time, May 3 has been an annual occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and to remind people of the many journalists who risk death or imprisonment in order to bring them the daily news. Reporters Without Borders has made World Press Freedom Day a highlight of its annual activities.